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UP THE YAQUI RIVER.

After Several Years "The Oasis" Man
Visits the Far Famed San Javier
Region.

Leaving the hospitable home of Mr. Sinnard, local manager for the Richardson Construction Company at Esperanza on a Monday, THE OASIS editor and his son, Allen T. Bird Jr., stopped a few hours at Corral, the junction with the main line of the branch of the Cananea, Rio Yaqui & Pacific railway building up the Yaqui river to await arrival of the train from Guaymas and Nogales, shortly after which the train we took departed for "Punta de Fierro" (End of Track) about 100 kilometers away. The train was in charge of our old time friend Pio Moreno, formerly a conductor on the Sonora railway running out from Nogales, and afterward many years in the same capacity with the Torres & Prietas railway.

Two years ago in August we visited those parts and made a trip to the End of Track, than at a point between Buena Vista and Cumaripa, about fifty kilometers from Corral. Since that time progress has been slow, heavy rock cutting and tunnel work having been done, and but a trifle more than fifty kilometers additional track have been laid. At this writing the End of Track is about four kilometers below Realito, and ten below La Dura. Practically the grade to Realito is completed, but there are several bridges to put in. However it is said that when the grade to La Dura is completed, which will be within two or three weeks, the bridge openings will be cribbed up and the track laid to La Concentraci6n, leaving completion of the bridges to follow. It is hoped to get that done and trains running to La Concentraci6n (La Dura) before the first of August.

At present the road is open to traffic as far as Aguas Calientes only, some twelve or fifteen kilometers below the End of Track. There all freight is transhipped, and there was at the station loading a pack train, while the platform was piled high with freight.

The train reached the terminal point just at nightfall. There we found Mr. Charles V. Fowler of Nogales, who is the forwarding agent for the Grant Brothers Construction Company. Mr. Davis, a gentleman known well at Nogales, who is paymaster at the same place we met also. At Tufanito, the material yard, a few kilometers below the End of Track are Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Polk—nee Mary Robinson of Nogales.

The rails were laid but a short distance above the camp, and were awaiting the completion of a small trestle. When we returned three days later construction had advanced to a point where the trestle could be crossed and the rails had been laid to the next opening, at a distance of about a kilometer, where the pile driver had been run out and set to work.

Remaining at the End of Track over night we took an early start for Realito, five kilometers away,

going immediately after breakfast. Neither vehicle nor saddle animal was to be had at End of Track, so we had to walk, and we negotiated the distance in an hour and a half.

At Realito we found Mr. H. B. Ellinger, the representative of the Realito Copper, Gold & Silver Mining & Reduction Company, an enterprise which has a number of stockholders in Nogales and Tucson. Work has been prosecuted desultorily some six years past, and there has been developed a body of high grade lead-silver ores that with rail transportation will pay to ship. As soon as the road is open to business shipments will begin, and the net proceeds will be devoted to developing a big copper ledge running through the great property which is very extensive, embracing some four hundred *per tenencias*, and extending about four miles along the backbone of the ridge that parallels the river about two miles to the westward. The workings whence will come the shipments are not more than three miles away from the site of the railway station, which is about a half mile below the town.

In the vicinity of Realito is the San Felipe, a very promising prospect owned by Messrs. Louis Iager of the Santa Rita and Montezuma hotels at Tucson and Nogales, and J. L. Sheperd. Within the last two years considerable work has been done with very good results.

At Realito was Mr. John T. Brickwood Jr., who had been engaged in rock work on the railway construction. A couple of days later he went up to one of the grade camps above La Dura to take a place as foreman.

Another Nogalense at Realito was Mr. Louis Snyder, a well known mining man whose arrival had preceded our visit by a few days.

Mr. H. King, long a resident of Suaqui de Batuc, but known well at Nogales, was another old timer we encountered at Realito. Mr. King and the scribe were acquainted in California, in 1874, when the latter was a railway conductor.

From Mr. John Wilton, who conducts a corral and a livery business at Realito we engaged a couple of good saddle mules with which to take a three days trip around through a region the scribe had not visited since January, 1905. We found the animals very serviceable. Mr. Wilton was very moderate in his charge, and upon our return he treated us very handsomely.

We reached La Dura (La Concentraci6n) which is about two leagues from Realito, at 11 o'clock. Elsewhere the place is mentioned always as La Dura; but along the river it resolves into two places, La Dura, where is "La Gloria," one of the rich mines of La Dura Mining Company, and, about a mile up the river La Concentraci6n, where is located the concentrating plant of the same company. Back in the hills eastward are the California and Prieta mines belonging to the same company, which has operated these mines without cessation some thirty years, and the operations have enriched the lucky

owners. It is a close corporation the stock all held in the hands of a few—the original owners or their families. The shafts on the Prieta and Gloria mines have penetrated to great depths,—some 1200 feet or more,—it was 1200 when the writer was there last.

In the absence of Don Pedro Schabarum, the general manager, who resides now in Los Angeles, but at present is in Germany for the sake of the healing waters of one of the spas—and to visit the land of his nativity—the honors were done by Mr. Ignacio Figueroa, the superintendent, a young gentleman who has been with La Dura Company from his boyhood.

Visiting La Dura at the time is Mr. F. Ench of Oakland, California, who has succeeded to the interest of his deceased father, one of the original locators of the properties. The young gentleman was at the camp upon one of his semi-annual visits, and expected to return this week to his California home.

Mr. Figueroa informed the writer that the company continues ore extraction and development in the Prieta and Gloria mines, shipping the high grade ores. In sorting the rock for shipment there is culled out some second grade ore that is put aside for concentration; and of that there accumulates in a year enough to run the mill about a month, which is done, and the concentrates shipped.

At La Concentraci6n Mr. V. H. Igo, formerly of Nogales, is running a hotel; and Mr. James Murray, likewise of Nogales, is there also. We were given a warm welcome by both. We met also Mr. Wm. Brenner and Manuel Ramirez, both from Nogales. The first named is a miner who made his home at Nogales several years; and the other taught music in Nogales, Sonora.

At La Concentraci6n was Mr. A. L. Lewis of the Sonora Ore Buying Company, who was putting the finishing touches upon his branch office, which is ready now to buy ores.

Saddling up late in the afternoon we started for Toledo, about twenty kilometers distant, going up on the west side of the river, and following as well as practicable the railway survey. We stopped at the first camp to telephone a message to the end of the track. There we were served by Mr. Fred Tully of Tucson, a son of Mr. Carlos Tully, editor of the Spanish paper in "ye old pueblo." With the young man is a brother, and we found another brother at the last grading camp, some six kilometers above, and twelve kilometers below Toledo. Beyond that point there is a gang clearing the right of way, and the engineers' camp.

Upon the road just above the last grading camp we were joined by Mr. Hal Bennet of Phoenix, who is grade inspector for the railway company. He rode with us several kilometers. The young gentleman is a nephew of Mrs. Louis Iager of Tucson and Nogales.

At evening we passed the engineer's camp, which had moved forward that day, and was located

about four kilometers below Toledo.

We rode into Toledo about eight o'clock in the evening. Mr. Livingstone was the only one in the camp, but later there came in Mr. Jay Barney, with Mr. Starkey from Hermosillo. Mr. Livingstone roused out the Chinaman who prepared us a supper that we found very palatable. The boy said he never had tasted before beans that were so good.

When the railway reaches Toledo, which is anticipated will occur in December, the fires in the furnace will be lighted and the stack blown for a long run. In Guaymas we had met Mr. H. C. Gerber, the treasurer of the Yaqui River Smelting & Refining Company, and Mr. R. H. Leadley, the new general manager, who stated that they were preparing a large supply of coke for shipment to Toledo as soon as the railway can begin delivery, and that they will have in hand a supply of ore sufficient for a long and successful run. Mr. Leadley has arrived in Sonora recently from the City of Mexico, and he has had a long experience in the smelting and refining business. Formerly the gentleman was engaged in Michigan.

Tuesday morning we got away at an hour reasonably early considering that we took time for a swim in the Yaqui before starting. We rode to a point not far from San Antonio de la Huerta, where we turned up into the Libertad cañ6n.

Near San Antonio de la Huerta is the San Antonio mine in which there has been phenomenal development of copper ores. As stated in THE OASIS some weeks ago, a tunnel had cut an ore body 190 feet in width. Now it is reported that Mr. R. L. Hogue, a well known mining engineer, has denounced the property over the heads of the owners, having discovered that through an error in the survey of the ground title had issued for an area outside of that wherein is the great development, leaving unoccupied the latter and open to denouncement, of which situation Mr. Hogue took advantage. About the time that we left Nogales the Bisbee Review stated that a gentleman in Bisbee had received from Mr. Hogue a telegram conveying a statement that he had denounced the San Antonio mine, which is corroborative of the story we heard at Toledo. There will be likely some very interesting litigation as the people over whom Mr. Hogue has denounced, are the Cole Ryan syndicate who developed the Calumet & Arizona properties at Bisbee, control the Cananea Consolidated mines, and are opening up the camp at Courtland, who have plenty of the sinews of war and are able to conduct a protracted litigation. The situation is very similar to that at Cerro Prieto out from which grew the famous litigation between Mrs. Butterfield and the Black Mountain Mining Company et al., which claimed the attention of the district court in Santa Cruz county, and the supreme court of the territory at intervals through a period of several years. In that matter the surveyor stated in his report and on the

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